

First Year of Ownership

The Erland Lee Home has been owned by the members of the Women's Institutes of Ontario for a little over a year.

The Committee have endeavoured to make this property a part of every Institute member. This has not been an easy task, but tasks are never easy, and just as all members of our own household are different, there is no reason to believe, as organizational members, we are going to think alike.

We had a few busloads through last May, as well as the delegates from Officers' Conference. The next four months were very busy, our records show we had approximately 5,000 persons view the Home, excluding the official openings and Officers' Conference.

The Committee are much the wiser after the first year's effort. We do not need to tell you as homeowners the hazards, pitfalls and headaches which arise from the pleasures of ownership.

Property Improved

The trees were trimmed and the hedge removed from the front of the property. We now find it easier to drive in and out onto the busy County road. There is now a lovely "Erland Lee Sign" at the roadside and our Drive House has a sign adorning the front, both gifts of Saltfleet W.I.

Our initial effort inside the Drive House was a good start for a first year. Thanks to Wentworth South District who assumed the responsibility for gathering and labelling the articles, it proved to be an interest point for our visitors. We were pleased with the fine response of branch programs on display, which you tacked on the display board, plenty of good ideas were found from glancing at this Board. We are still in need of small articles which are reminiscent of the past and remind all of rural Ontario. The Drive House affords us plenty of space for more articles.

The Craft centre, which was a dream, is still just that, it seemed physically, financially and mechanically impossible to work it out last summer. However, we are not disheartened and there is always next year.

Picnic Area

The grounds and picnic tables provided much enjoyment for the visitors. The outdoor privy was nothing to brag about, and the extreme heat of the summer didn't help matters. However, all must realize that this is an on-going project and next year more adequate facilities will indeed be top priority.

Craft Gifts For Sale

To those branches and members who donated crafts to be sold, "thank you". The response was not as great as we had anticipated, however we were the richer by \$100.00.

Private Living Facilities

The apartment is quite functional and allows the hostess and her family the privacy they need. It is much easier for visitors to view the Home now.

The private living quarters are cosy and comfortable. The living room picture window looks out over the lawn and to the vineyards beyond. The kitchen



Display of pressed glass shown by owners, Misses Charlotte M. Jones and Hattie I. Jones, Stoney Creek, during Officers' Conference visit.



Miss Marjorie Lee in her home at Hamilton holding picture of her father, Erland Lee, on table mother and brother, Frank.

and dining area are divided by cupboards, the hostess says "she is enjoying the new avocado stove and refrigerator," donated by Simpsons. A laundry room adjoins the garage. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a bath.

We had two pieces of furniture on loan, the sideboard in the parlour and a man's pine dresser in the display room upstairs, they have now been returned to the owner's son.

The new sheer curtains in the parlour were up for the official opening and the red velvet side drapes have been hung and add an elegance to the room.

There has been a fine response this Fall from Branches, Districts and Areas and the Committee will be purchasing needed articles on their behalf. Many have asked our advice before purchasing articles, also cash donations have come, leaving selections to us.

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